

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. K-480

Magi No. 1504805604

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Rambo Farm

and/or common The Walter Farm (current)

2. Location

street & number East side Bayshore Rd. (Rt. 445), .3 miles south of _____ not for publication
Caulk's Field Rd., west of Fairlee _____

city, town Fairlee ☒ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Aino and Otso Waldemar Walter

street & number RD # 2, Box 327 telephone no.: 778-4372

city, town Chestertown state and zip code Maryland

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Court House liber Orphan's Court
3760

street & number folio

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This 2½ story frame farmhouse is a modest expression of the central gable Victorian style with a main section 3 bays wide and 1 deep. There is a long 2 story rear ell, with a side hall plan on the 2nd floor. Built later, to help serve the house's late 19th and early 20th century function as a boardinghouse, are a large 1-story shed-roofed section paralleling the ell and a small shed-roofed wing to the rear of the ell.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

In some respects the house was inexpensively and plainly built: the main section is small and, unlike most Kent County houses in this style, with low (i.e. 8 ft on 1st floor) ceilings; the trim is plain; and the central hall and stair are not imposing. Yet the owner/builder clearly was aware of the decorative elements popular at the time and incorporated a few: main section gable ends, dormer tympanums and central gable are attractively shingled with diamond-butt shingles; there are pilasters at three corners of the main section; and the exterior of the cornice serves as the base of the central gable. As seen from the approach side, the house is dominated by the tall and steep main-section roof and central gable, made even more prominent visually by the fact of the relatively low ceilings of the 1st and 2nd stories.

The house is significant in Kent County social history. From the late 19th century to World War II, it was a summer boarding house for visitors to the Tolchester Beach amusement park nearby, housing those who did not elect to make just a one-day excursion via boat to Tolchester. A stable (now demolished) provided riding horses for the vacationers, and a bathhouse (also demolished) was the required place for changing to and from swimming suits and also served for showers. The ell's large 1st floor room directly behind the main section served as a boarders' dining room, while the adjacent large 1-story shed-roofed section (more or less now a semi-finished, concrete-floored enclosed porch) is said to have been the scene of crab feasts. Separate men's and women's toilet facilities were provided at the end of dual narrow halls on the ell's 2nd floor by adding a projecting "bump-out" on the 2nd floor only (now removed). The last proprietor of the boardinghouse is said to have been a Miss Emma Brown.


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PS-2746

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.1 DESCRIPTION (continued)

Building Form and Material

1. Size - Main Section: 2½ stories, 3 bays wide, 1 bay deep
 Wing A: 2 stories, 1 bay wide, 4/5 bays deep
 Wing B: 1 story, 1 bay wide, 2 bays deep
 {Wing C: 1 story, 1/2 bays wide, 3/4 bays deep
 {Former porch, enclosed and enlarged
2. Plan type - central hall, 1 room deep
3. Roof type - Main section: gable
 Wings: gable; shed (wings B & C)
4. Chimneys - Located in the main section - 2 of them - thru ridge near both bay lines of central bay; Wing A - thru ridge at line of 3rd bay to rear.
 Material - brick
 Decorative elements - 2-course bands, with one corbelled course beneath
5. Material/Walls - Main Section: Frame - weatherboard with 4-3/4" exposure; front and 1 rear corner; pilasters with recessed round headed (or trefoil) panels, no bases, and simple capitals.
 Wing A: Wood shingles () in central gable and gable ends. Frame - (same as above); also has pilasters at rear corners. No shingles in rear gable.
 Wing B: Frame - same
 Wing C: Frame - same - enclosed porch but not finished inside
6. Material/Roofs - Main Section: asphalt shingles
 Wing A: asphalt shingles
 Wing B: asphalt roll roofing
 Wing C: asphalt roll roofing
7. Material/foundation - Main Section: Originally brick piers (now being filled in). Wing A & B are the same.
 Wing C: concrete slab
8. Age - Main Section: last quarter 19th century. May have been built as boarding house. Tolchester Park opened 1877.
 Wings: A-same; B & C- later; A concrete entry step at a Wing A entrance has incised initials and the year 1901, which may indicate only the year the step was made. If indeed the house was built in that year, it very likely was built with boarding-house use in mind since the Tolchester Beach park was flourishing by this time. However, the date seems too late for the style of the house although it is not unusual in rural areas for older styles to persist.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.2 DESCRIPTION (continued)

9. Style - Central gable Victorian with rear ell and side porch converted to enclosed quarters.

Building Elements and Details

1. Doors - Main entry: Located in the central bay of main section's approach side - 3 light sidelights over 1 raised panel; 3-light transom; 4-panel door. Entry is through a simple open porch.

Secondary entry: 1) Located in Wing A - south side, 1st bay beyond main section; 2) Wing A - south side, last bay, next to Wing B. Plain board frames; 1 large light over 2 panels. 3) Wing C - 1st bay to rear of main section thru enclosed porch. 4) Center hall - rear door - now to Wing C, formerly to outside via small porch (removed).

2. Windows - Main Section: type - double-hung
lights - 2/2
details - plain wood sills; plain board frames
shutters - none (no evidence of former shutters)

Wings: type - double-hung
lights - 6/6
details - plain wood sills; plain board frames
shutters - none - no evidence of former shutters

3. Dormers - 2 - main section on approach side; steep gable roofs with 4-6" overhang at eaves and gable end, returns of about 10", box cornice with ogee and fillets crown molding; cheeks of weatherboard; wood shingles in gable-end tympanum; returns' moldings continue across base of tympanum (recessed/broken); plain pilasters. Double-hung windows-small 2/2.

4. Roof details - Main section: box cornice with ogee and fillets crown molding; bevel bed molding overlaying deep plain fascia board. Cornice molding continues, though recessed (broken), to form base of central gable tympanum. About 12" eaves and gable end overhang. Eaves returns of about 20". At gable ends cornice trim continues between returns to form base for tympanum filled with shingles above.

Wings: Same but with smaller returns at rear gable end of Wing A.

5. Porches - Main section - central bay, almost to edges of side bay windows; originally was about 2 ft. wider. Shallow hip roof with beaded-edge rafters; roll asphalt roofing. Metal and wooden supports are new; plain box cornice (new). Beaded tongue and groove pine visible above rafters. New concrete floor on ground and step.

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.3 DESCRIPTION (continued)

6. Color - Current: white with green edging on pilasters
 Historic: 1) 1st coat - ochre siding. 2) grey siding with spanish brown trim

7. Other - 1) 2nd floor rear section - long side hall plan (ideally suited for boarding house use)

2) Perpendicular to this hall were dual, narrow halls leading to men's and women's toilet facilities. This was a later second floor only "bump-out" addition and has been removed.

Interior Description

1. Plan type - central hall with rear ell

2. Major stair - Straight-run open-string stair; newel is turned and of walnut (?); rail is continuous with newel. 2 oak balusters per tread; yellow pine treads; spandrel plastered. Simple steps, brackets of pine, stair wall opening "banded" all 3 sides by wide fascia and applied molding - modified ogee and fillet with bevels used together (all is varnished).

Other Stair - rear stair - enclosed at end of Wing A 2nd floor hall

3. Major Mantles - Living room - marbelized slate; roundheaded opening; frieze and pilasters with marbelizing and incised gold work; shelf with 2 brackets; other side of central hall (2nd parlor?) - marbelized slate removed and brick hearth built for insert stove.

4. Major trim - Windows/doors - plain trim with inside applied modern reeded-edge screen molding.

Baseboards - plain 4-5" board with quarter-round at base

Cornices and chair rails - none

5. Major doors - 2/2 raised panels (thin doors)

6. Floors - concrete - Wing C; Living room - strip oak over medium width random pine; vinyl tile; 2nd floor - random medium pine.

7. Walls/ceiling finishes - ceilings low 1st floor (7-10, 8-0) - plaster; paper in many rooms (modern)

Site Description

1. Site Description - The house is set back 250-300 feet from Bayshore Road, with one of the farm's cultivated fields between the house and the road. A few farm outbuildings lie to the north and east. Grass, trees and shrubs are in the immediate area around the house;

CONTINUATION SHEET

7.4 DESCRIPTION (continued)

of note is the large basswood in the front yard, originally one of a pair. About 30 feet to the north of the house lies the rubble from a collapsed 2 story small frame house which probably pre-dates the present house. In the heap hewn beams and very wide floorboards could be seen.

2. Views to/from site - The site is surrounded by cultivated fields with trees in the distance to the south and east. Until a few years ago the sight line to the south was clear all the way to the intersection of Bayshore Road with Tolchester Beach Road (Rt. 21). However, following the neglect of the adjacent farm to the south and the falling down of an "old" farmhouse there, tree growth has crept out to Bayshore Road on that property. Two other Victorian farmhouses can be seen in the far distance: the one on the other side of Bayshore Road whose lane begins almost opposite the lane of Rambo/Walter Farm (but only when the corn is down) and the one to the north of the Bayshore Road - Caulk's Field Road intersection on the east side of Bayshore Road.

Use of Building

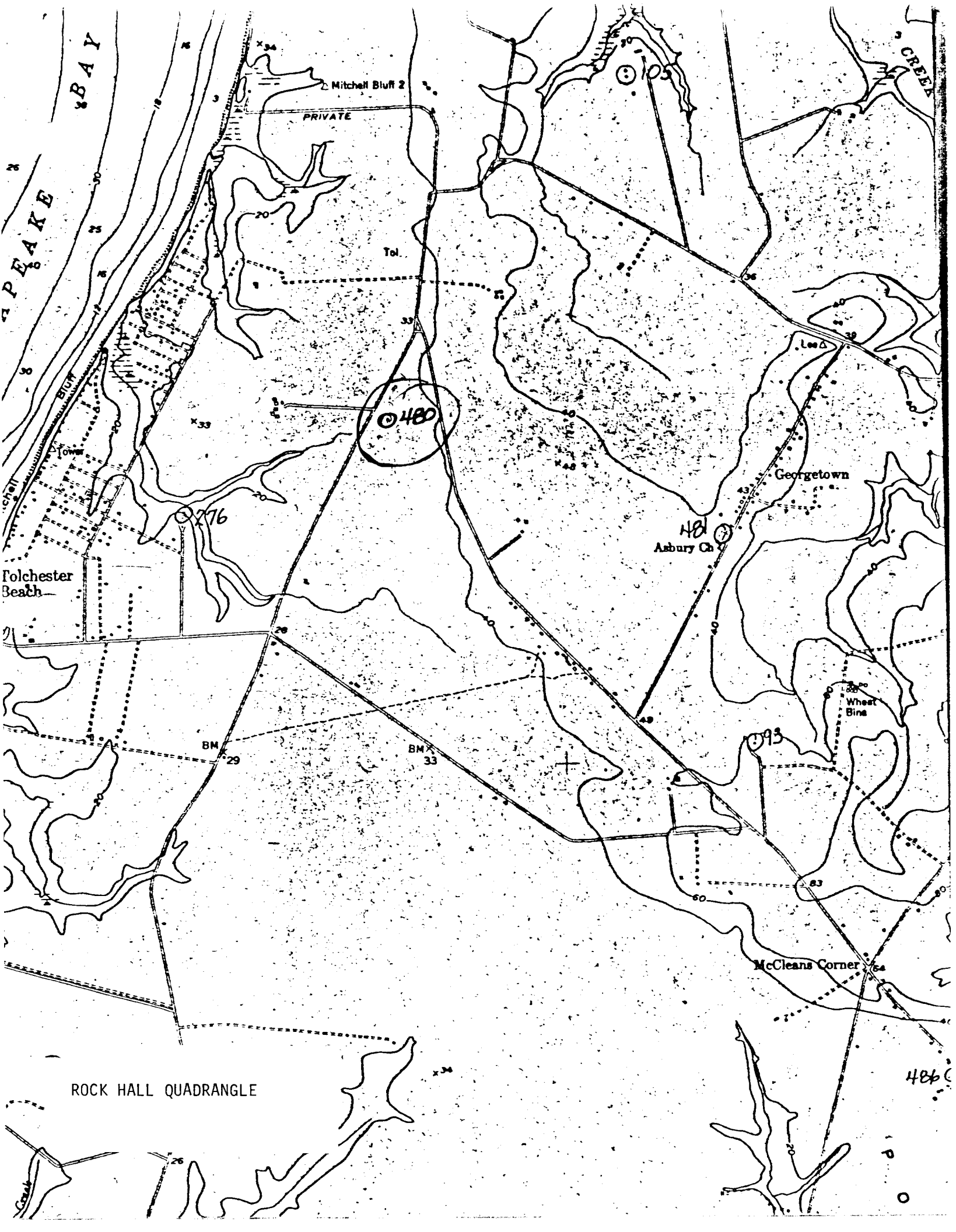
Current - Private residence: farmhouse

Historic - Boarding house for Tolchester beach and park visitors; farmhouse

History of Building/Past Ownership

(See also significance for boardinghouse use.) The 1877 Kent County atlas shows a house on this site at that time, giving the name of A.J. Reese as owner. This may be for the present house or it may show what is said to have been an "old" frame house now collapsed into a heap to the north (about 30 feet) of the present house. This was said to have been 2 stories and not large. Very wide floor boards and hewn beams could be seen in the pile.

Kent County School #9 once stood on the property at the intersection of Caulk's Field Road and Bayshore Road.



ROCK HALL QUADRANGLE

4860



View to Northeast

RAMBO/WALTER FARM (K-480)

Tolchester, Chestertown, Kent County

Photograph: M.Q. Fallaw, July 1981